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POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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MAY 2 1 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM : Helene L. Boatner
Director, Political Analysis

SUBJECT : Suggestion for DCI Briefing

1. Action Requested. This memorandum proposes and outlines a possible talking point for your Tuesday morning breakfast with Secretary of State Haig. We believe that the official visit next week of General Celasun, a leading member of Turkey's ruling military council, offers a fine opportunity to discuss the Turkish narcotics problem. General Celasun will meet with Secretary Haig and probably Secretary of Defense Weinberger.

2. Background. General Celasun, a leading member of Turkey's five-man ruling council, will be in Washington next week to discuss narcotics control and other issues with top US officials. As commander of the paramilitary Jandarma, Celasun will probably seek US assistance in upgrading the capabilities of this border patrol and rural police force, especially in the narcotics field.

Preoccupied with internal security duties, the Jandarma plans to assign narcotics detection and interdiction a high priority in the future, according to the US embassy in Ankara. In the past the Jandarma has had a two-fold narcotics mission: 1) the detection and destruction of illicit crop cultivation; and 2) the interdiction of narcotics traffic.

However, implementing a revitalized program will require a significant increase in staff and equipment. Transportation (including aircraft, coastal vessels, and a variety of vehicles) and communications systems are particularly critical. The Jandarma has received some assistance from the United Nations for Drug Abuse

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Control (UNFDAC) in establishing a communications network of limited scope. Intelligence support is also a weak spot.

In according narcotics a higher priority, Celasun may be acting on a belief shared by many Turkish officials that a connection exists between arms smuggling, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking. There is increasing evidence that both left- and right-wing Turkish political parties, as well as terrorists and separatists, have engaged in narcotics trafficking in order to support their causes. At least a portion of these funds have been used to purchase weapons in Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc, probably through intermediaries in the criminal underworld.

Moreover,

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opium originating in Turkey supplies heroin processing laboratories operated in Lebanon by members of two Syrian-backed terrorist organizations, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command (PFLP--GC) and Saiga. These laboratories reportedly supply Syrian army officers with heroin, which they transport to West Europe aboard the government-owned Syrian Arab Airlines.

Turkey functions primarily as a processing and transshipment center for opiates originating in countries to the east--Iran, Afghanistan, and perhaps Pakistan. Trafficking networks supply markets in West Europe, the Near East, and through Sicily, the United States. Since the coup last September, the Turkish Government has moved aggressively against narcotics, but with mixed success.

3. Recommendation. We strongly recommend the inclusion of this item on the agenda.

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/ Helene L. Boatner

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